and also recommend suitable amendment that need to be made in the existing laws to make national highways safe for travel;

(c) if so, whether a decision has been made to set up a universal safety fund; and

(d) if so, what are other main terms that the Committee would consider and by what time this Committee is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) A Committee has been constituted to deliberate and recommend on creation of a dedicated body on Road Safety and Traffic Regulations.

(c) The proposal before the Government is for a Dedicated Safety Fund and not a Universal Safety Fund.

(d) The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:-

(e) To assess the present magnitude of road traffic injuries and fatalities in India as a public health and economic problem;

(ii) To study international example of organizations for road safety and traffic regulation with a view to drawing lessons for India;

(iii) To propose a Road Safety Organisation at the Central Government level and recommend the functions and responsibilities of the proposed organization;

(IV) To suggest amendment of relevant traffic laws;

(v) To suggest the financing mechanisms for such an organization; and.

(vi) To suggest measure for rescue and relief of accident victim.

The Committee has been asked to give its recommendations by 31st January, 2006.

Waterways proposals from Maharashtra

1005. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted 13 proposals for Inland Water Transport waterways, costing about Rs. 118.04 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many and which of them have since been approved indicating their approved cost; and

(d) the details of these proposals which are still pending and the progress made so far in respect thereof, when these proposals were mooted and the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. 13 proposals have been received by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) from Government of Maharashtra during 2003-04 under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of inland waterways. Details are given in the Statement (See below). Out of these, 6 proposals at a total cost of Rs. 22.58 crores have been approved by the Central Government and funds to the tune of Rs. 8.93 crores have also been released to State Government. In respect of the remaining 7 proposals costing Rs. 95.23 crores, clarifications have been sought from the State Government.

Statement

Details of Proposals of Govt. of Maharashtra under Centrally Sponsored Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Cost (Rs. in cr.)
A	Approved Proposals	
1	Development of inland waterways from south Mumbai to Amba river/Dharamtar creek at Mandwa & *vice versa*	4.11
2	Development of inland waterways from south Mumbai to Amba river/Dharamtar creek at Karanja & *vice versa*	4.82
3	Development of inland waterways in Mhasla/Mandad river (Rajpuri creek) at Rajpuri.	4.69
4	Development of inland waterways in Mhasla/Mandad river (Rajpuri creek) at Janjira fort.	1.25
5	Development of inland water transport in Godavari river near Vishnupuri project, district Nanded	2.72
6	Development of inland waterways in Mhasla/Mandad river (Rajpuri creek) at Dighi.	4.99
	SUB TOTAL A	22.58

SI. No.	Name of Project	Cost (Rs. in cr.)
B	Proposals on which clarifications have been sought from the State Government	
1	Development of inland waterways from South Mumbai to Amba river/Dharamtar creek at Rewas & *vice versa*	2.97
2	Development of inland waterways in Mhasla/Mandad river (Rajpuri creek) at Agardanda	3.35
3	Development of inland water transport for eco-tourism project at Isapur, district Yavatmal	3.91
4	Development of inland water transport across Mumbai harbour (ferrywharf to Nerul & *vice versa)*	67.00
5	Development of amenities jetties at Elephente, Konkan coast and creeks along Konkan coast (Jaigad Sangemeshwar, Tarkarli-Kalaval)	8.00
6	Development of inland water transport for eco-tourism project along Koyna backwater	5.00
7	Development of inland water transport for eco-tourism project along Arunavati river at taluka Digras, district Yavatmal	5.00
	SUB TOTAL B	95.23
	TOTAL	117.81

Global Technical Regulations for Motor Vehicles

1006. DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country propose to join agreement on Global Technical Regulations for Motor Vehicles;

(b) if so, the number of countries who are members of the groups; and

(c) the advantages which would be available to our country after joining this gruoup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved the proposal for India's joining the 1998 Agreement on Global Technical Regulations (GTR) for Motor Vehicles, administered by WP-29—World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, a body of the Economic Commission of Europe of the United Nations (UN-ECE).